

Sloughs News

September, October, November 2018



- Farewell Carmen!, page two
- Coastal Cleanup, page three
- Antioch Dunes Butterfly Count, page four

Farewell, Carmen! Outdoor Recreation Planner Leaves 20 Year Legacy of Innovative Programs and Initiatives

This August we say goodbye to Carmen Leon-Minch who will be retiring after serving 20 years as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. Carmen has created, coordinated and lead many creative and influential programs for the refuge which have engaged and educated countless visitors and volunteers alike. Carmen also served as a Refuge Law Enforcement Officer from 2001-2009.

Carmen has been indispensable to the annual Amazing Race, the Coastal Clean-Up and Pier Fishing Day. Carmen's innovation in connecting new and diverse audiences to the refuge are evident in the many programs she has created, including Yoga on the Refuge, No-Impact Geo-Caching, the Endangered Species Poster Contest, the Bio-Blitz and countless other interpretive programs. She has created innumerable materials to better connect visitors and volunteers to the many features of the refuge complex, such as updated trail guides, bird lists, and educational brochures. Carmen has received several awards, including the 2008 Outstanding Contribution Connecting People with Nature Award and the 2012 American Recreation Committee's Beacon Award. According to the American Recreation Committee, Carmen's dedication, passion and skill "to make time in America's Great Outdoors fun are exactly what we need to win over the hearts and minds of today's young Americans and connect them to our legacy of refuges, parks, forests and more,"

Congratulations on your retirement, Carmen! We wish you all the best in your future adventures and endeavors. You will be greatly missed!



Story Corner!

"My favorite story about Carmen was from 2003, when the National Wildlife Refuge System was celebrating its 100th anniversary. All refuges around the country were told to have big 100th year celebrations and the entire Visitor Services' staff started brainstorming ideas for such an event.

One idea was to celebrate the NWRS 100th anniversary by drawing a comparison to the 100th anniversary (give or take a few years) of Drawbridge. We couldn't walk a large crowd of folks to Drawbridge, so why not take a train? Then, somehow Carmen "volunteered" to find a train.

She tried to get an historic steam engine train, like the one that goes through Niles Canyon, but found out that historic trains cannot use active commercial tracks. Then she tried Amtrak and the Capitol Corridor, all to no avail. Finally, she tried the then newly launched ACE train (the Altamont Commuter Express train from Tracy) and she managed to convince them that it would be great PR for them to donate their train and engineers for our Saturday event, since ACE trains only ran on weekdays.

But that's not all. Carmen then managed to convince Union Pacific Railroad (not a big friend of FWS) to halt all commercial train traffic on the main rail line from Seattle to Los Angeles so our train could stop at Drawbridge for 30 minutes while actors dressed in period costumes told the story of life in Drawbridge 100 years ago for passengers on our train!

It was a spectacular event, and I still can't believe Carmen pulled it off!!" - Marge Kolar

Do you want to help wildlife and the environment?

Join thousands of people around the world for the
international
Coastal Cleanup Day!

At Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 15th, 2018, 9:00 AM–Noon

We supply: gloves, trash and recycling bags.

You supply: energy, sturdy shoes, sun protection,
water, and clothes to get dirty in!

For more information, call 510-792-
0222, ext. 362 for the Visitor Services
Intern or Paul Mueller at
ext. 361.

No reservations necessary!

*Volunteers arriving on the early side of 9:00 am can
choose to be shuttled to areas along the Shoreline Trail to
reach areas farther away.*

Children under age 18 must have parental approval. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. To expedite the registration process, log on to http://www.fws.gov/refuge/don_edwards_san_francisco_bay to download the forms and bring to the registration table. Forms are also available at the registration table.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR RARE BUTTERFLIES?

Here is one you can only find at Antioch Dunes NWR!

By Susan Euing, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS



Hello everyone!

It is time once again for the Lange's Metalmark Butterfly counts at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge! We will be counting butterflies for several weeks in August and September and we can use your help.

We will be surveying on Thursdays in August and part of September. We will meet for training on site at 9:30 am, then survey until 4:00 pm, the times in which our butterflies are the most active.

The weekly count dates will be

September 13th and 20th

We will be conducting counts until **ZERO** butterflies are seen, whenever that may be in September. You will be briefed on what to do and what to look for on each day of the count, so first-timers are welcome as well as veteran counters!

As you might guess, Antioch in summer is challenging. Temperatures can be very warm to hot, often with a nice breeze, and the terrain can be uneven and sometimes steep. There are many plants to step over, under and around, as well as prickly plant parts that will go home

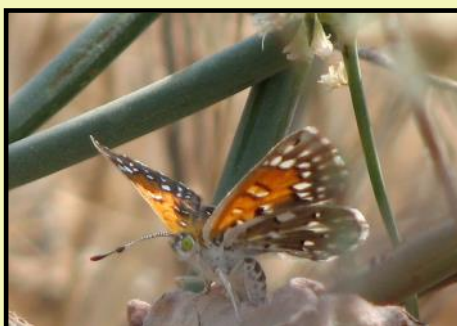
with you.

However, if you are of the hardy variety, the payoff is fabulous and worth it!

Lange's Metalmark Butterflies are found nowhere else in the world, except at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge!! Don't miss this opportunity to see this gorgeous endangered species!!!

Volunteers will need to wear sturdy shoes/boots, long pants like jeans and bring/wear sun-protection, sunglasses, hat, lunch and a WATER BOTTLE!!!

We can provide short gaiters to help keep weeds out of your shoes, but, if you have your own long pair, you might want to bring them. They really help keep the weeds out of shoes, socks and laces. Please feel free to pass this information on to any adults (18+) that you think might be interested. Thank you for your interest in the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge!



If you are interested in volunteering for the September butterfly counts, please contact Susan Euing at susan_euing@fws.gov . Please include your full name, phone number and e-mail address. NOTE: ONLY eight VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PER SURVEY, SO SIGN UP SOON.

Directions:

Antioch Dunes NWR (Contra Costa County): Volunteers will meet at 1551 Wilbur Avenue in Antioch, 94509.

From 680 heading north (near Walnut Creek/Concord), take Hwy. 242 East, which will lead you onto Hwy 4 East towards Pittsburg/Antioch.

From 680 heading south (from Benicia/Martinez), take Hwy 4 East towards Pittsburg/Antioch.

At Antioch, take A Street/Lone Tree Way exit and go left under the freeway. Proceed about one mile on A Street and then go right onto Wilbur Avenue. Proceed on Wilbur about one mile, cross over a concrete bridge and look for two large PG&E towers on the left. The entrance gate will be on the left between the two towers. You will see the large brown refuge sign next to the gate. Park at the bottom of the driveway.



Stewardship Saturday

If you are interested in improving the refuge for visitors and for wildlife alike, join us at the visitor center for a stewardship project. We will do either a trash cleanup or a planting/weeding project. Dress appropriately for the task and for the weather. We will have gloves to lend and will provide the tools. Bring your own water bottle. Meet in the parking lot at the visitor center. Driving an additional two and one half miles may be required since the project may be at a different location.

When?: October 6th, November 3rd

Volunteering starts at around 9:30 am and finishes up by noon.

Ask about flexible starting and end times to fit your schedule needs.



Visitor Desk Training at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Train to volunteer at the Fremont Visitor Center desk. Volunteers work a minimum of 2 shifts a month for a minimum of 4 months. You must be able to attend both training days to volunteer.

Training dates: We will meet Sunday, October 21, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

For more information and to register, visit https://donedwards_infodesk.eventbrite.com.

Native Plants Nursery

Work with our nursery doing weeding, pruning, and planting. Learn about restoring vegetation that is more drought resistant and better for wildlife. Your work will promote plant diversity and make the refuge more beautiful.

Questions? Please contact June Smith at wildflowers560@gmail.com

Coastal Cleanup Day

Consider helping behind the scenes, driving a truck, being a team leader, or more! Contact Paul Mueller at (510)-792 0222 ext 361.



Volunteers at 2010 Coastal Cleanup



Volunteer Opportunities

Atviso Volunteer Requirements

- Attend the scheduled trainings.
- Meet the age requirements for the program.
- Fill out the Volunteer Service Agreement and provide other need documentation, if required.



Marek Jaworski

Environmental Education Volunteers

Help lead school field trip activities that educate children about water conservation, our local endangered species and habitats that surround the bay!

Two field trip programs are held at the EEC: Wetland Round-Up (K-4) and Habitat Restoration Service Learning (5-12). Volunteers help lead activities for groups of 10-15 students.

Upcoming Training Days: Wetland Round Up Field Trip Volunteer Training: Tuesday, October 2, from 10:00 am – 2 :00 pm,
OR Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Restoration Service Learning Training: Volunteers will shadow at least 2 field trips from the following dates: October 18, 23, 25, 30, and November 1

Additional Requirements: Must be willing to get a background check and a TB test.

Dates & Hours: Weekdays as scheduled. Field trips are typically 4 hours from approximately 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Questions? Please contact Genie Moore at 408-262-5513 ext. 100 or genie_moore@fws.gov
OR Hope Presley at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or hope.presley@sfbws.com

Weed Management Training South Bay



Join us for one of four 2018 training sessions on invasive plant management, designed for volunteers. Sessions are appropriate for expert volunteers as well as those who are new to invasive plant management. Topics include: invasive plant biology, control methods, restoration strategies, tools of the trade, mapping using Calflora, and more!

When? : Saturday, September, 29, from 9 :00 am – 3:00 pm

Where?: Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center

Additional Requirements: You Must Register Online: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/volunteers/wildland-volunteer-network/volunteer-training-south-bay/>



More Alviso Volunteer Opportunities!



Butterfly Garden Volunteers

Volunteers needed to keep the education center's native plant demonstration garden thriving. This position will require restoration work in the garden that includes weeding, mulching, and planting.

History: Volunteers established this garden to provide critical habitat for songbirds and butterflies, and to demonstrate how to garden for wildlife using beautiful California native plants, without the use of herbicides.

Additional Requirements: Volunteers will spend one to two days a week at the garden for a three month commitment.

Dates & Hours: Dates and hours are flexible.

To Apply: Please contact Hope Presley at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or hope.presley@sfbws.com

Citizen Scientists

Help us monitor plants, birds, monarchs, or reptiles!

Requirements: Volunteers must be ages 15 and up. They will contribute approximately one monitoring field day per month.

Dates & Hours: Hours are flexible

Interested? Please contact Hope Presley at 408-262-5513 ext. 104 or hope.presley@sfbws.com

Restoration Service

Learning Training,

Volunteers needed to work on the EEC's ecotone habitat restoration project. In the fall and winter volunteers plant natives and in the spring and summer volunteers pull various invasive species to ensure that the native plants have a chance to thrive!

Requirements: Volunteers will attend work training days on Tuesday, September 11th from 10:00 am– 12:00 pm and Tuesday, October 16th from 10:00 pm - 12:00 pm

Additional Requirements: Individuals and groups of all ages will perform physical work, primarily outdoors.

Hours: Hours are Tuesdays from approximately 9:30am - 2:00pm.

Questions? Please contact Genie Moore at genie_moore@fws.gov or 408-262-5513 ext. 100.

Save the Date!

Bagles and Birds

Holiday Party!

Thursday, December 6th

9:00 AM—11:00 AM

At the Environmental Education

Center in Alviso!

The Sloughs News is edited by Paul Mueller, Connie Roberts, Laura Mello. Contributions came from Genie Moore, Hope Presley, Carmen Minch, Marek Jaworski, Marge Kolar, Alex Baranda, Susan Euing, Connie Roberts and Paul Mueller. Any questions or comments? Call Paul Mueller at 510-792-0222, ext. 361.